

BROWN-TAIL MOTHS AT GARDINER, MAINE.

It is gratifying to learn that but few Brown-tail Moths' nests are to be found in this vicinity this spring, as compared with the number found last year at this time. In the worst infested orchards last year where 100 nests were taken, not more than 4 or 5 are to be found this year. While they were very thoroughly picked last year, it is hardly to be expected that that is the entire cause for the decrease this year. Most of the nests examined last year did not seem to be in a healthy condition—the larvæ were very stupified and many were dead, but I am sorry to say that all that I have opened this spring are very lively and apparently ready for business. As this is not far from the northern boundary of the Brown-tail Moth area, it is interesting to note that we have had one year of a decided decrease in their numbers.

Two years ago not more than 20 nests were found in Gardiner, last year about 2,000 were gathered in, and this year 200 would, perhaps, be a fair estimate.—A. T. REYNOLDS, Gardiner, Maine.

TWO NEW SPECIES OF ASILIDÆ FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY JAMES S. HINE, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

The two species of Robber Flies here described as new were collected by Messrs. R. V. Harvey and R. S. Sherman, who reside in Vancouver, and who have sent in many other interesting species of Diptera. In one of his annual publications Dr. Fletcher has adopted the plan of reporting interesting captures of insects from the various sections of Canada, and it is notable how many of those reported in 1905 and 1906 were taken in British Columbia. The insect fauna of the Province soon will be fairly well known if the dozen or more resident collectors maintain their present interest in the matter. Success to their efforts.

Cophura albosetosa, n. sp. — Black, thorax covered with gray dust, abdomen shining blue-black, with white spots on the sides of the segments, wings brownish-hyaline, body and legs clothed with white bristles and hairs. Length, 7 to 9 mm.

FIG. 7.—Side view of the head and antenna of *Cophura albosetosa*.

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Face slightly, but evenly convex and rather wide, front clothed with silvery dust and white hairs, which are longest and coarsest, and sometimes brownish near the oral margin. Ocellar tubercle rather prominent; posterior orbits thickly clothed with rather fine white hairs. Antenna black, first two segments with white bristles; third segment of uniform width, with a short style bearing a small bristle at the tip; length much in excess of the first two segments together. Thorax clothed with gray dust and furnished with white hairs, which on the disk may have a brownish tinge; scutellum clothed with gray dust and white hair; legs black, with white bristles and hairs, hind tibiæ and tarsi somewhat enlarged and with short golden pile on part of the anterior surface; wings uniformly very dilute-brownish, so dilute, in fact, that they might well be said to be hyaline.

Male abdomen shining blue-black, of nearly uniform width throughout its length. Each segment, from one to six on either side, with a distinct white spot on the posterior margin.

Female abdomen shining blue-black, widest near the middle of its length, each segment, from one to five on either side, with a white marking on the posterior margin. These markings are larger and longer than in the other sex.

Two males and a female from Hope Mountains, B. C., July 19, 1906, and a female from Similkameen, B. C., July 20, 1906.

There seems to be some uncertainty as to the limits of the genus *Cophura* as used by the different authors, and it is therefore with a certain hesitation that I have concluded to place the present species in it, but from the standpoint of the recent catalogue by Aldrich, who follows Williston, *albosetosa* may be included. It has affinities with some of the species placed in the genus *Taracticus*, but the abdomen shows no sign of punctulation. It is probable that when a critical study of sufficient material is possible the limits of *Cophura* will be restricted. Although the insect has a general resemblance to some of the species of *Cyrtopogon*, it does not belong there because of the claw-like spine at the end of each front tibia.

NIGRASILUS, n. genus.

Front and face of ordinary width, face widest below. Facial gibbosity rather prominent and with numerous bristles. Third segment of the antenna rather narrow, and a little longer than the first two together, arista only about half as long as its segment. Thorax with bristles on the posterior part and several bristles on the margin of the scutellum. Wing

venation as in *Asilus* in the restricted sense. Posterior margins of the abdominal segments without bristles that differ in length from those on other parts of the abdomen. Female genitalia plainly conical; male appendages plainly bent upward near the middle of the length.

Nigrasilus nitidifacies, n. sp.—Black, wings slightly fumose, face just beneath the antennæ shining black; female with conical oviduct.

Length, 12 to 15 mm.

Facial gibbosity rather prominent, and clothed with black bristles above and white bristles below; face just beneath the antennæ shining black, otherwise clothed with gray dust, which is most pronounced along the entire margins of the eyes; beard white; occipito-orbital bristles all black. Ground colour of the thorax black, but thinly covered with gray dust, four to six black bristles on the margin of the scutellum; wings slightly fumose, almost hyaline on basal parts. Femora all black, with fine white hair and black bristles;

tibiæ and tarsi more or less dark red, approaching black in parts. Hind tibiæ each with three or four black bristles on the front side near the middle. Abdomen black above, with gray hind borders to the segments.

A male specimen collected in the Hope Mountains of British Columbia by R. S. Sherman, July 16, 1906, and a female, collected on Vancouver Island, July 2, 1903, by R. V. Harvey.

This insect has the general appearance of the species of some of the other genera of the subfamily Asilinae, but if Loew's classification is to be followed and his subgenera raised to the rank of genera, as is the tendency, it must stand in a new genus, mainly on account of the black colour and the very peculiar genitalia of both sexes.

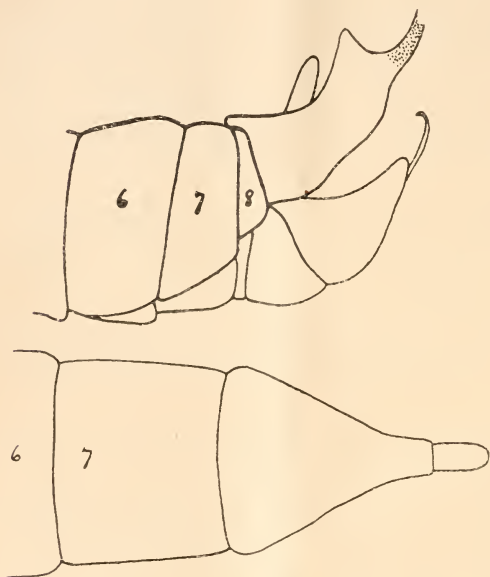


FIG. 8.—*Nigrasilus nitidifacies*.—Side view of the tip of the male abdomen (upper diagram). Dorsal view of the tip of the female abdomen (lower diagram).